

UPI's follow-up on AP's scoop of last weekend on Raymond Rocca's recommendation-criticism that the leads of a left conspiracy should have been followed up seems to be a fairly clear indication of Belin's game. UPI used quotes from Belin AP did not.

Rocca was one of the CIA liaison crew with the Warren Commission, under Angleton who was under Helms. (There were others, too.) It was the responsibility of the CIA to make those recommendations then. It was aware of what is taken as a Castro threat in an AP interview of 9/7/64. It was also aware of the WC testimony. But it did not make any such recommendation then because a) there is and was no basis for it and b) to have done so would have raised anew the question of its relationship with LHO.

It is my recollection that when Angleton was forced out Rocca was with him. UPI quotes Belin as saying "he requested the report while serving as executive director of the Rockefeller commission." This means that Rocca was rehired as a consultant to draft the 27-page report for Belin, despite Rocca's Watergate-related past.

There really is no basis for the claimed analysis in what is cited, the Delgado testimony. As Liebeler led him into the testimony referred to it was close to Liebeler testifying through the unsophisticated Delgado. I went into this in Oswald in New Orleans. (This is from recollection, not rereading.) The story as Delgado was led into presenting it is totally impossible: that in 1959 Castro diplomats had Oswald relieved of guard duty to confer with them on base. It also is impossible that both Rocca and Belin are not aware of the impossibility of this having happened. And it is impossible that either Rocca or Belin read this testimony without knowing that Oswald was anti-Communist. Liebeler blurted it out before he caught himself.

Belin is wrong in claiming "That was not discussed until "his Commission. I did go into it in 1967. If he intended this to be taken as what he is not quoted as saying, in terms of official discussions, this also can't be other than wrong. It is not possible that the federal intelligence agencies did not consider the AP story, which they had.

What seems like the most probable explanation is that after our confrontation at Vanderbilt, when he came to know the official account could not survive any attention to Post Mortem, Belin started thinking of ways to turn the come-apart around. He is of the far-right. Therefore, he has to have a left scapegoat as LHO was. The way to get it was by using the excuse provided by the Gregorian nonsense and to ask the CIA to provide the right kind of mind for the "analysis." Particularly with what closes the UPI account from the SF Chronicle of 3/22/76 was there no other need for Rocca. He "claims he had no knowledge of it [the AP story] at the time." This is unlikely but if true it means Rocca was incompetent. Liar or incompetent he is unsuited for the task except by political preconception.

So now we have the possible backstop position: the Warren Commission was wrong but the possible conspiracies were of the left, from those countries Rocca and Belin and CIA do not like. Ford, either. Precisely those that preferred JFK as President. Irrational. But Belin also got mileage by being able to say what is irrelevant except in terms of idle theorizing, that "there is nothing in CIA files which shows the existence of any foreign conspiracy."

Whether or not there was a "foreign conspiracy" is not relevant to the central question, was there any conspiracy. The evidence of which Belin knows is that there was a conspiracy, the evidence leaving no doubt that no single man could have done what was done. On learning of this irrefutable evidence at the same time he saw a case of subornation of perjury laid out against himself Belin, knowing he'd have his effort appreciated where it counted, made this misleading move and the CIA cooperated. It had little choice anyway because Schweiker could have let the stuff out.

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Memo on JFK Death Talks of Wider Probe

Washington

A 1975 memo written by a CIA consultant says the agency's files do not show any foreign conspiracy to assassinate president Kennedy, but evidence could exist in Moscow or Havana.

The 27-page report written by retired Central Intelligence Agency employee Raymond Rocca, who had served as CIA liaison with the Warren commission that investigated Kennedy's slaying, it was learned.

In a telephone interview at his Des Moines home yesterday, David W. Belin said he requested the report when serving as executive director of the Rockefeller commission, which looked into domestic intelligence activities.

Belin also was counsel to the Warren commission. He has called for a reopening of the investigation to restore public confidence in commission findings that Lee Harvey Oswald alone killed Kennedy. He filed a Freedom of Information Act request to have the report and other documents declassified by the CIA.

"Basically the substance of the memo is that this particular CIA officer states there is nothing in CIA files which shows the existence of any foreign conspiracy," Belin said.

"But he believes there might be files, primarily in either Russia or Cuba, which could have some relevance."

Rocca's memo says investigators should have looked into testimony by a Marine Corps buddy that Oswald was in touch with Cuban diplomatic officials in 1959. He also says that they failed to follow up on Castro's verbal threat against the lives of U.S. leaders, made during a Sept. 7, 1963 interview in Havana.

"That portion (the threat) was not run in stories which ran in the New York Times or the Washington Post," Belin said, "but it was run in the New Orleans Times-Picayune" where Oswald lived.

"That was not discussed until the Rockefeller commission study. Rocca claims he had no knowledge of it at that time. Now in 1975 he says that should have been looked into."

United Press